[Translation]

Tapping of Telephone Talks

875. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are entitled for tapping of telephonic talks under the Indian Telegraph Act;

(b) if so, the matters to which the Government are entitled of telephone tapping and the posts of the officers empowered to issue directions for tapping telephonic talks;

(c) whether these officers use their discretionary power to issue directions and whether the Government have issued any rules, sub-rules and guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the proviso of Section 5(2) of the India Telegraph Act, 1885; on the occurance of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety when the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central or State Government may intercept or detain a message or a class of messages. Secretary (Home) to the Cental Government/ State Government have been empowered to issue directions for tapping of telephones.

(c) and (d) Sir, the guidelines for interception are in the process of being notified. Presently the procedure as laid down by the Supreme Court is being followed.

[English]

Coastal Regulation Zone Rules

876. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has asked for amending the coastal regulation Zone Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Kerala has requested for modifications in the scope, applicability and implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991.

(c) A committee had been appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan Nair to examine the representation of Government of Kerala. The CRZ Notification was amended vide S.O. No. 494 (E) dated 9th July, 1997 incorporating some of the recommendations of the Committee.

Radio-Collaring of a Tigress

877. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether radio-collaring of a tigress with their cubs in Panna Tiger Reserve on January 17, 1997, has been done;

(b) if so, whether the same was done without specific permission from the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor including the risk involved to the Tiger and cubs due to this;

(d) whether the procedure of Radio-collaring was allowed to be photographed by a BBC Photographer; and

(e) if so, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger of Five Major Dock Labour Boards

878. SHRI ANNASAHIB M. K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated action for merger of five major dock labour boards consequent upon passage of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1948 in the Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the concerned port trusts for change over to the proposed restructuring of organisation; and

(c) the implications of implementation of proposed merger, present status of actual implementation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The management of respective port trusts and dock labour boards are holding negotiations with the respective labour unions for obtaining their consent.

(c) After the actual merger of the dock labour boards with the port trusts, it will ensure single handling agency for cargo and facilitate deployment of unified gangs to obtain higher productivity and reduce handling cost.

[Translation]

Utilization of UGC Funds

879. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some universities have not been able to fully utilize the funds allocated by the University Grants Commission during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and University-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of funds returned by the South Campus of Delhi University to UGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Funds released during a financial year have to be utilised by the end of that year. As such, the question of not utilizing funds during the current financial year does not arise.

[English]

Water Sports in Pong Dam Lake

880. SHRI. SAT MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start water sports in Pong Dam Lake in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Integrated Development Project to Revive Hampi

881. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 400 crore Integrated Development of project to revive Hampi, a World Heritage Centre, has been posed to Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for funding;

(b) if so, whether OECF delegation has sent any postitive signals to the Karnataka Government on the said project; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get OECF funding for the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The project for the Integrated Development of Hampi—A world heritage centre has been posed to Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund through Deptt. of Economic Affairs for funding. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 396.2 crores of which around Rs. 300.00 crorcs are shown as investment eligible for OECF funding.

(b) The decision of the funding agencies is awaited. The project has been discussed in detail with OECF under the aegis of Deptt. of Economic Affaris. The Karnataka Govt. officers were also present.

(c) The Deptt. has already recommended for funding of the project.

Foreign Tourists

882. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM to be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during last three years;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government during the said period;

(c) the number of foreign tourists who visited J&K State;

(d) whether the Union Government have sanctioned some more projects for the development of tourism in the J&K State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India, J&K State and the estimated foreign exchange earning from tourism during last three years are as given below:

Year	Number of Foreign Tourists		Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. Crores) (All India)
	India	J&K State	
1994	1886433	24622	7281.66
1995	2123683	20589	8633.30
1996	2287860	22628	10049.95

(d) and (e) The Department of Tourism of Government of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 403.54 lakhs for various tourism development projects in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years.

[Translation]

Fire Incidents in Major Forests

883. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents in major forests of the country during the 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check the damage of forests assests caused by the fire; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The information is being collected from the state Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.